



United States Air Force

ONLINE news

Vol. 1, No. 10

The official USAF newspaper (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>)

May 19, 1999

Inside

- Letters to the editor 2
- Court restores presidential right to dismiss 3
- AF continues Y2K tests 3
- Coalition strikes Iraq 3

NEWSBYTES

AF selects officers

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Calendar Year 1999A Major Central Selection Board for Line, Judge Advocate General, Chaplain, the Medical Service, Biomedical Sciences and Nurse Corps selected 2,243 captains for promotion to major May 18.

The CY99A Captain Central Selection board for JAG selected 31 first lieutenants for promotion to captain.

Local military personnel flights have more information.

Stop-Loss look continues

WASHINGTON — Air Force personnel officials, as of May 19, continue to develop a cohesive Stop-Loss plan that, if implemented, would minimize the impact on individual service members and their families.

Stop-Loss, if implemented, would suspend separations, retirements and some promotions during Kosovo operations in critical skills.

It would also suspend changes of status in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve that would remove a member from forces that could be called to active duty.

An announcement on implementing Stop-Loss is expected soon.

Victims need help

WASHINGTON — As many as 34 Air National Guard families suffered losses from the tornadoes that struck Oklahoma and Kansas May 3.

To contribute to the relief effort, send a check to the Will Rodgers Disaster Relief Fund, Will Rodgers ANG Base, Oklahoma City, OK 73179-1067.

Experts address anthrax concerns

WASHINGTON — One year into the Department of Defense's mandatory anthrax vaccination program, most airmen are rolling up their sleeves. But many are also concerned about their first inoculations against what the military calls a rising biological weapon threat.

The Air Force surgeon general said their concerns are valid and must be addressed.

"The Air Force policy is to educate people and answer questions to the best of our ability," said Lt. Gen. Charles H. Roadman II, Air Force surgeon general. He said Air Force leaders have an obligation to help people understand the reasons for the vaccine and risks associated with it.

"We're really looking at the low risk of immunization versus the high risk of mortality if exposed to pulmonary anthrax," he said. "One deep breath will kill you." Looking at it this way, he said, "It's clear what we need to do."

The general emphasized the following points:

- Anthrax is a uniformly lethal disease;
- Ten nations are known or suspected to have weaponized anthrax;
- Anthrax was weaponized during the Persian Gulf War; although there is no evidence it was used;
- Ninety-nine percent of people exposed to pulmonary anthrax will die if they are not protected; and
- There is a safe, Food and Drug Administration-approved vaccine that protects against anthrax.

Calling it a matter of "when, not if" anthrax is used as a biological weapon, the surgeon general said that, given the threat, it would be

continued on Page 4

Lightning Bolts strike Yugoslavia



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Ohlson

Air Force B-2 Spirits deliver Joint Direct Attack Munitions over Yugoslav skies.

By Senior Master Sgt. Jim Katzman
Managing Editor

WASHINGTON — Few people can toil all day, go home, turn on the television and watch the result of their hard work half a world away on the evening news.

For Tech. Sgt. Brian Caton, Airman Shaun Donohue and other ammo builders in the 509th Maintenance Squadron, such working and watching has been an everyday

practice since Operation Allied Force began March 24.

Unlike other bomb specialists working on aircraft close to the theater of operations, the 509th MS airmen pull duty at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., in the center of the United States, almost 15 hours as the B-2 flies from Kosovo.

They also build the most modern of precision-guided bombs: Joint Direct Attack Munitions. The 2,000-pound bombs have drawn rave reviews both for their comparatively low cost and reliability for hitting their targets.

continued on Page 4



Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to

the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>

Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

Going vs. staying

In reference to "Warriors don't cry about tents" [ONLINE NEWS, May 5, 1999], while it's fine and good to expect military "warriors" to accept Spartan lodging and frequent deployments, that person is probably going to consider taking all his experience and training, and leave the Air Force. While some may consider it good riddance, there isn't a big line at the recruiter's door ... the needs and wants of the individual must be met by the Air Force, or that person will meet them elsewhere in the private sector.

Chip Dearing
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Unflagging hope

When I get the chance to read the paper at my desk, I always read "Stars and Stripes" Letters to the Editor. Almost always some GI complains that he's undervalued as a person, underpaid as an "employee," and how dare the leadership send him in harm's way just to save a few lives. I sigh and answer the phone. It's Fox TV. The guy says, "We'd like to make a dub of the videotape showing the release of the hostages." ... The Fox video

photog was there at the release of our POWs from Yugoslavia from the very beginning. ... A reporter asked, "I see you have a folded American flag in your hands. What does that mean to you?" The GI, the one with the bruised face, stands up tall and says, "I made a tiny American flag out of a piece of toilet paper and folded it. Every day I would look at it and know that my country was doing everything it could to set me free." So now, those Letters to the Editor don't bother me so much. In fact, not at all.

Charlie Gill
Ramstein AB, Germany

What kind of men?

I lived in tents at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, during basic training. I lived in tents in Japan when I got over there in 1951 — the winter time. None of us complained about it ["No good in tents," ONLINE NEWS, April 28, 1999]. I don't know what kind of men are in the Air Force now, but I don't think many are like the airman who wanted to live in a hotel while on temporary duty.

Tech. Sgt. Robert Allen
Retired

Character counts

Integrity: Living the Air Force core value



By Maj. Bill Nadolski

As my wife Rocio and I drove through Linda, Calif., we noticed a billboard along the roadside with "Character Counts" printed in huge letters.

Over the next couple of days, I noticed the same words on other signs, bumper stickers and even a lapel pin. As time went by, I couldn't get those words out of my head. Every time I thought about that sign, I asked myself what it really meant and how it related to the Air Force.

I think every one of us knows what character is but finds it difficult to put into words. As I struggled to define character, I realized the best place to start was the dictionary. Webster defines character as "the combination of emotional, intellectual and moral qualities distinguishing one person or group from another."

I knew the sponsors of the billboard had a deeper message in mind. So, I

continued my quest to understand what it said.

After three days, when I was just about ready to give up on ever finding the true meaning of those words, by chance I stumbled upon a quote from retired Army Gen. William Simpson, which in my opinion, focused on the meaning behind those words.

Interviewed for a book on leadership, General Simpson said, "A man of high character has integrity; he is honest; he is reliable; he is straightforward in dealing with people. He is loyal to his family, his friends and his superiors."

The general narrowed down character into five words: integrity, honesty, reliability, straightforwardness and loyalty.

As far as I am concerned, his message wouldn't have lost anything if he had stopped at integrity. One of our core values, integrity goes to the heart of who we are as a military service. For that reason, "integrity first" are the first words out of our mouths when we are taught to recite our core values.

The Air Force pamphlet that explains core values states, integrity "is the willingness to do what is right even when no one is looking. It is the 'moral compass' — the inner voice;

the voice of self-control; the basis for the trust imperative in today's military."

Our faith that Air Force members have integrity is the foundation of the trust each of us has in our commander, subordinates and comrades. It has enabled us to build the most powerful and professional fighting force in the world. Integrity made us victorious in operations Urgent Fury, Just Cause and Desert Storm. It enables us to endure long hours at work and long periods away from home. Most importantly, it will make us successful in operations Allied Force and Shining Hope.

General Simpson really helped me to understand the meaning of the words on that billboard. It doesn't matter whether you fly planes or fix them, whether you work on computers or push papers — the important thing is that we are a team built on integrity. He reminded me we can rely on each other when we go into harm's way because character counts.

Editor's note: Major Nadolski commands the 9th Mission Support Squadron, Beale Air Force Base, Calif.



AF forges ahead with Y2K testing

WASHINGTON – Confident with Y2K test results indicating bases will be able to operate “business as usual” when the new year arrives, the Air Force is turning its attention to ensuring it can continue to fly, fight and win in the year 2000.

Air Combat Command, the main provider of combat air forces to theater commanders, will conduct a three-phase Y2K Flag operational assessment this year to ensure the Air Force can continue to project airpower in defense of the nation in the year 2000.

The assessment will occur during already-scheduled exercises and operational events over the next five months. The exercises range from commander-in-chief-level exercises demonstrating Joint Air Operations Center capa-

bilities to exercising wing support and operation systems to employing weapons and command-and-control systems, said Lt. Col. Scott Dowty, ACC Y2K operational assessment director.

“We are trying to link all these exercises to ensure the complete ‘sensor-to-shooter’ loop for all AF missions — counter air, lethal precision engagement. — will continue in the year 2000,” he said.

Phase 1 will occur during various commander-in-chief operational evaluations and assess campaign planning and tasking in air operations centers.

This article is available in its entirety online.

Coalition strikes south and north

WASHINGTON – Coalition aircraft struck targets in southern and northern Iraq in the last several days in response to threats from the ground.

On May 17, coalition aircraft struck two targets in southern Iraq at about 1:20 p.m. EDT. The strikes were in response to anti-aircraft artillery fire directed at aircraft patrolling the southern no-fly zone.

U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II and U.S. Navy FA-18 Hornets used precision-guided munitions to strike a surface-to-air missile site and an anti-aircraft artillery site near the towns of Abu Sukhayar, about 100 miles south of Baghdad, and An Nasiriyah, about 200 miles southeast of Baghdad.

Between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Iraqi time May 15, Operation Northern Watch aircraft were targeted by Iraqi radar posing a threat to coalition aircraft. Responding in self-defense, U.S. Air Force F-16CJ Fighting Falcons fired AGM-88 high-speed anti-radiation missiles, and F-15E Strike Eagles dropped GBU-12 laser-guided bombs on



A F-16CJ, loaded with HARM missiles, flies an Operation NORTHERN WATCH mission.

anti-aircraft artillery sites north of Mosul.

Damage to Iraqi forces is being assessed. All coalition aircraft departed the areas safely.

Base sets standard for deployed transportation

**By Senior Airman
Christopher M. Moore**

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Take 1,000 of the Air Force’s oldest vehicles, stick them in constant dry heat and blowing desert sand and give them to the 363rd Expeditionary Transportation Squadron.

The result: An amazing, less-than-1-percent vehicle down-for-parts rate that sets the standard for the Air Force, said Chief Master Sgt. Ray Wood, vehicle

maintenance manager of “Al’s Garage” at Prince Sultan Air Base.

Using the Internet, International Merchants Purchase Authorization Card, blanket purchase agreements with local vendors, high-priority mission support kits, and the Air Force Regional Supply Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Va., the 363rd ETS has revolutionized getting

This article is available in its entirety online.

Court restores right to dismiss

WASHINGTON – Overturning a military court decision, the Supreme Court ruled May 17 that the president has the power to drop from the rolls of commissioned officers an officer convicted in a court-martial.

The high court ruled unanimously that the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces had no jurisdiction to rule against the president. Instead, the court said, the officer could appeal his case through the Board for the Correction of Military Records or federal courts.

Dropping an officer from the military rolls “was an executive action, not a ‘finding’ or ‘sentence’ ... that was (or could have been) imposed in a court-martial proceeding.” The justices added that the administrative action appeared straightforward and beyond the military court’s jurisdiction.

The case involved Maj. James Goldsmith, who was ordered by a superior officer to inform his sex partners that he was HIV-positive and to take measures to block any transfer of bodily fluids during sexual relations.

However, the major disobeyed this order on two occasions, having unprotected intercourse, once with a fellow officer and once with a civilian, without informing either that he was carrying HIV.

Major Goldsmith was convicted in 1994 by general court-martial of willful disobedience of an order from a superior commissioned officer, aggravated assault with means likely to produce death or grievous bodily harm and assault consummated by battery.

He was sentenced to six years’ confinement and forfeiture of \$2,500 of his salary each month for six years.

After his conviction, the Air Force requested that the president drop him from the rolls of commissioned officers. Major Goldsmith appealed this action to the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. The appeals court said the action would amount to double jeopardy against the major. The Supreme Court said that the court lacked authority to decide the case.

The entire opinion can be found at <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/98-347.ZS.html>.



Experts address anthrax

continued from Page 1

malpractice not to use the vaccine as a force-protection measure. "It is a safe, effective vaccine for a uniformly fatal disease," he said.

Roadman said that the anthrax vaccine has been tested and implemented by the same process as every other vaccine airmen take.

As an added safety measure, he said, the secretary of defense insisted on testing DOD's entire stockpile of the anthrax vaccine for sterility, safety, purity and potency before starting the mandatory immunization program.

Almost a quarter million people have received more than 800,000 anthrax immunizations from the DOD. Of this group, less than 60 adverse reactions – or .007 percent – have been reported to the FDA. According to General Roadman, this is very low, especially when compared to other immunizations such as mumps, measles, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus, which can have a complication rate as high as 30 percent.

In an unprecedented move, one wing com-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Ohlson

Lt. Gen. Charles Roadman discusses anthrax issues.

mander, keying in on a rising number of anthrax questions within his command, temporarily suspended the vaccination program May 5.

This article is available in its entirety online.

Lightning Bolts strike Yugoslavia

continued from Page 1

The payload's success begins as the bomb builders assemble a most complex munition.

A JDAM is actually a guidance kit that converts existing unguided free-fall bombs into precision-guided "smart" munitions. Builders such as Sergeant Caton and Airman Donohue add a new tail section containing an inertial navigational system and a Global Positioning System guidance-control unit.

"While I can't say that building a JDAM is any easier than any other bomb," Sergeant Caton said, "it does require less torque than most conventional bombs. That helps us get a pretty good system going in a short time."

It takes 30 minutes to convert each "dumb" bomb into a smart bomb. Ten technicians work for four hours to build a load of 16 JDAMs for an awaiting B-2. The muni-

tions make the bomber especially lethal as the only all-weather weapon system for Allied Force strikes.

JDAMs also reduce risk to B-2 pilots because the bombs can be dropped from the aircraft from up to 15 miles from the target. The inertial navigational system, using updates from the GPS, helps guide the bomb to the target via movable tail fins. Immediately after release, the aircraft can retreat because all guidance is autonomous — fire and forget.

The bomb builders, however, don't forget. They get feedback every night in the comfort of their Whiteman homes.

"It's cool to see our work here making such a difference over there," Airman Donohue said. "I can go home, watch the news and proudly say, I made that happen."

JDAMS: More bang for \$

Joint Direct Attack Munitions are the shining stars of Air Force acquisition Lightning Bolt programs, according to Darleen A. Druyun, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition and management.

Lightning Bolts took shape in 1995 as the linchpin of the Air Force's drive to acquire systems faster, better and cheaper. Since then, Ms. Druyun said, Lightning Bolt reforms have "touched off an unprecedented blaze of reform."

To date, the Air Force has tallied more than \$30 billion in savings under the Lightning Bolt program. The biggest cost reduction has been almost \$3 billion slashed off the JDAM program over the last four years.

The Department of Defense designed JDAM in 1993 with an estimated price tag of more than \$42,000 per copy. Two years later, the Air Force applied newly approved Lightning Bolt streamlined acquisition reforms, and the results, Ms. Druyun said, were dramatic.

The reforms reduced JDAM production time for 80,000 munitions from 15 years to 11 years, slashed special military specifications from 87 to zero and shrank the statement of work from 137 pages to only two.

Even more savings resulted when the Air Force reduced contract data requirements from 146 to 22, cut back the program office from 80 people to 36 and increased the warranty period from five years to 20.

Taken together, the reforms reduced the JDAM unit price to less than \$15,000 per copy. Multiplied by more than 80,000 units delivered to the Air Force and Navy, the government has saved \$2.9 billion.



U.S. Air Force ONLINE news

U.S. Air Force ONLINE news is produced each Wednesday by the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs and is available via Air Force Link (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>). This funded U.S. Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for Air Force members and their families. Content is endorsed by the Department of the Air Force, but is not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or Department of Defense. Editorial offices: SAF/PAI, 901 N. Stuart Suite 605, Arlington VA 22203. Telephone (703) 696-7832, Fax (703) 696-9162. Please post on unit bulletin boards and pass this copy on to others who need current Air Force news and information. Reproduce as needed.

Publishers

Hon. F. Whitten Peters, *Acting Secretary of the Air Force*
Gen. Michael E. Ryan, *Air Force Chief of Staff*

Editor-in-Chief

Col. Ronald T. Rand, *Director of Public Affairs*

Executive Editor

Lt. Col. Sanford McLaurin

Managing Editor

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Katzaman

Technical Production

Capt. Bryan Hubbard and Staff Sgt. Cheryl Toner